

Colossians 4:5-6: "Walk in wisdom"

To KNOW the Word of God, (be well-read in it), and to understand and be able to speak about the things that you believe from God's Word is essential if you would be wise or walk in wisdom! But what is of equal importance, and I might argue of greater importance, is DO YOU LIVE and PRACTICE what you KNOW to be true from God's Word in your Christian life?

It's good to have knowledge and to be "well-read" in the Word, it's better when the truth of God's Word is "well-lived" in your life.

This past Sunday, we learned from the wisdom and example of Christ by His silence in His sufferings. By His wisdom, He knew when to answer and when to remain silent. This evening for a few minutes let us learn from what Paul wrote to the saints at Colosse about our Christian walk and our Christian talk.

FIRST: "Walk (or LIVE) in wisdom"

What is wisdom? It begins with fear or reverence of the Lord!

Psalm 111:10, (Wisdom in further defined) Job 28:28, and then in James 3:13-18, James gives us the character of one who is a wise Christian. (What wisdom looks like). And then: Colossians 3:16: "Let the Word of Christ in you richly IN ALL WISDOM..."

If you are WALKING and LIVING in the wisdom that is from God, it will be obvious by how you conduct yourself in your daily life...in your decisions, in the company you keep, in how you speak or don't speak, and in where you go or where you don't go. Wisdom from God will equip you with godly carefulness, spiritual foresight, and a hatred of falling into sin!

Proverbs 14:5, 22:3: Prudent = Practically wise

But what is also essential if you would be wise... you must ASK GOD for wisdom. *James 1:5, Proverbs 2:6: For the LORD giveth wisdom, out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."*

So, when you have studied the Word and asked God for wisdom from the Word, then you must obey and practice what God has taught you from the Word; that is how you will learn to "walk and live in wisdom" in your life.

Now comes the test and the proof... "Walk or live in God's wisdom TOWARD THEM THAT ARE WITHOUT."

It's EASIER to walk and live by God's wisdom and Word when you're with the saints, but Paul is commanding us do it when we're not with the saints...

But rather... when you're in the world, doing business with strangers, outsiders, and unbelievers... THIS is when your godliness and wisdom should be obvious; those that are WITHOUT should see Christ in you, in your conduct, in your conversation, how you speak, (what you say and don't say),

in your business dealings, BUT ALSO in HOW you react (or don't react) and respond to difficult situations or when everything goes sideways!

1 Thessalonians 4:12: "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without."

1 Timothy 3:7: "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without."

2 John 12: "Demetrius hath a good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record: and ye know that our record is true."

NEXT: If you LIVE the truths of God and "walk in wisdom TOWARD those that are without", when it comes time to speak TO THEM ABOUT Christ, they will be more inclined to respect your words because they have seen your life!

To know the Word but NOT LIVE IT is to be a "practical atheist". I believe in the God of the scriptures, but I act and behave in my life as if there is no God. Remember the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom!

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know HOW ye ought to ANSWER every man."

Every time we speak, (we are giving our testimony); our words, as Christians should be gracious, and seasoned with salt. The word seasoned means "prepared"; the word "grace" speaks of God's influence upon the heart in those whom He saves... BUT ALSO, grace is the reflection or effect of what God has done in the heart of the one to whom it has been given!

Luke 4:22: "And all bare Him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth." Nothing else could come from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Never a man ever spake like this Man, and never again shall any speak like the Lord Jesus did... BUT NOW... If God has saved you by His grace, it stands to reason that your speech and your conversation should be seasoned with grace (and your words should "BE BECOMING" SALTIER and MORE SEASONED) in the affairs and relationships of your life! We must STUDY and OBEY the Word if we would speak and converse graciously in every circumstance... Maurice Roberts wrote:

"The tone of a Christian's conversation gives us a fair idea of how sanctified he is" or if I might add...how wise he is.

Ecclesiastes 10:12-14, Proverbs 10:13, 19-21, 31-32, 13:3, 15:1-2, 4, 7, Titus 2:8

So, there is speaking with wisdom, graciously, BUT there is knowing how to answer...EVERYONE...

Proverbs 15:28, 16:23, 17:27-28, Ecclesiastes 5:2, James 1:19, 1 Peter 3:15

REDEEMING THE TIME

Don't waste the time that God has given to you, which is NOW, but make the best use of it for His honor and glory...redeem the time, meaning buy it up and use every opportunity that God gives you, before you lose it.

Galatians 6:9-10, Ecclesiastes 9:10-12